(c) The information is given below:—

State/City	Number awarded	
	LPG	RO (Retail outlet Petrol/ Diesel)
1. Gujarat	71	81
2. Maharashtra	121	94
3. Bombay	22	6
4. Delhi	73	4
TOTAL:	287	185

Indo-American projects

2703 SHRI RAOOF VILIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine Indo-American projects involving USD 2.7 million have been approved by Government;

(b) what are the agencies involved in funding and implementing the projects and the areas of development;

(c) whether more projects are likely to be approved and the total finance involved and the areas identified for such an investment; and

(d) whether Government will accept offers from other developed countries to fund collaborative projects to help small and medium industries develop market-oriented technologies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Nine R and D projects involving US 2.7 million, being undertaken jointly by Indian and US companies, were sanctioned as on October 31, 1987, under the Programme for Advancement of Commercial Technology (PACT).

(b) and (c) The projects are being jointly undertaken by Indian and US companies and cover the fields of electrical equipment, paper, foor processing, pest control, pharmaceuticals and environmental protection, and are being funded partly by the sponsoring companies and partly by assistance under PACT. Further projects which are eligible for such assistance may also be approved in future, and the total finance involved would depend on such approvals.

(d) Each offer of assistance will be considered on the basis of its merits and essentiality.

Action by M.R.T.P. Commission

2704. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Binnies' Aristocrat is being heavily advertised under the cover of Prime Mineral Water in large sized bottles as reported in the Times of India of the 6th February, 1988;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such large sized bottles are not available anywhere in the capital and this is a ruse to advertise the same brand name whisky to beat the ban on alcoholicdrinks; and

(c) whether MRTPC or Consumer Affairs Department have initiated action against such defaulters and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The M.R.T.P. Commission having considered that the advertisement which appeared in the Times of India newspaper dated 6-2-1988 fell within the ambit of Section 36A of the MRTP

Act, 1969, has ordered a preliminary investigation to be conducted by the Director General (I&R). On receipt of the Investigation Report from the said officer, the Commission is empowered to take further appropriate action in the matter, as per the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969 relating to unfair trade practices.

Posts lying vacant in various departments of Ministry of Industry

2705. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts are lying vacant in the various departments of the Ministry of Industry for the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not filling up these posts; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick industries in Andhra Pradesh

2706. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sick industries in Andhra Pradesh will be nationalised or revived;

(b) if so, whether any list of sick industries or any recommendations in relation thereto have been received from the State Government by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) For revival of sick industrial units Government of India have got a uniform policy for the whole country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. Some of the important aspects of the same are as follows:

(i) The Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation namely, 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, (BIFR) has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(iii) The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units. The banks and financial institutions evolve rehabilitation packages for the revival of sick units.

(iv) Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sectors.

(v) Government of India introduced a 'Margin Money Scheme' with a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in reducing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector. Under the liberalised scheme the maximum amount of assistance per